REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-20 are pending. No claims are amended or canceled.

35 U.S.C. § 102 Rejection, Wellen.

Claims 1-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Wellen (US patent publication 2002/0075884). Reconsideration and allowance of claims are respectfully requested for the following reasons.

Claims 1-6

Wellen does not anticipate claim 1 because Wellen does not teach or suggest each and every element of claim 1. For example, claim 1 recites, among other elements, "*identifying a first portion of a first message in a first slice of a switch*" and "*identifying a second portion of the first message in a second slice of the switch.*" Wellen does not teach of suggest a switch having a first portion of a message in a first slice and a second portion of the message in second slice.

More specifically, at paragraph 29, Wellen describes "an application of a scheduler for switching input data streams to specific output data streams. A switch 2 connects N_i input ports . . . to N_o output ports . . . ." At paragraph 30, Wellen describes putting data packets of a data stream bound for a specific output port from the same input port into one queue. A "stream" may be anything issuing or moving with continued succession of parts. Since the data stream has a continued succession of parts (data packets) into one input port, data packets of a single stream are not brought through two input ports, but only a single input port. Therefore, Wellen does not describe or suggest a first portion of a first message in a first slice and a second portion of the first message in a second slice of a switch.

Also, Wellen does not discuss identifying, for example, a chronological or spatial relation of the data packets. Thus, Wellen does not disclose or suggest identifying a first portion of a first message and identifying a second portion of the first message. Claim 1 and its dependent claims are allowable for at least this reason.

Furthermore, claim 1 also recites, "*the first portion of the first message including a first routing portion specifying a network resource*." In paragraph 29, Wellen describes each data packet being destined for an output port. This output port is not a network resource as it is internal to the switch. There is no mention of a resource to where the packet is going after the switch 2. Thus, Wellen does disclose or suggest a first routing portion specifying a network resource.

Accordingly, claim 1 and its dependent claims are allowable.

Claim 3 depends from claim 1 and should be allowable for at least similar reasons as claim 1. Claim 3 recites additional features that further distinguish over the cited references. For example, claim 3, recites, among other elements, "*dividing each message to create the first and second portions; sending the first portions to the first slice; and sending the second portions to the second slice.*" Wellen does not have this feature of the invention.

In paragraph 29, Wellen describes connecting data streams of a certain input port to a certain output port. These data streams are composed of data packets, which are stored in virtual queues. See paragraph 30. There is no mention of creating data packets from larger units of data. The packets essentially just appear at an input port as a continued succession of parts of a stream. Thus, Wellen does not describe dividing each message to create the first and second portions. Additionally, there is no mention of sending the two portions of a same message to different slices.

Accordingly, claim 3 and its dependent claims are allowable for these additional reasons.

Claims 7-10

Claim 7 recites similar features as recited for claim 1, and claim 7 and its dependent claims should be allowable for at least similar reasons as claim 1.

Claims 11-16

Claim 11 recites similar features as recited for claim 1, and claim 11 and its dependent claims should be allowable for at least similar reasons as claim 1.

Claim 13 recites similar features as recited for claim 3, and claim 13 and its dependent claims should be allowable for at least similar reasons as claim 3.

Claims 17-20

Claim 17 recites similar features as recited for claim 1, and claim 17 and its dependent claims should be allowable for at least similar reasons as claim 1.

35 U.S.C. § 102 Rejection, Chiussi et al.

Claims 1-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,689,506 to Chiussi et al. (Chiussi). Reconsideration and allowance of claims are respectfully requested for the following reasons.

Claims 1-6

Chiussi does not anticipate claim 1 because Chiussi does not disclose or suggest each element of claim 1. For example, claim 1 recites, among other elements, "*identifying a first portion of a first message in a first slice of a switch*" and "*identifying a second portion of the first message in a second slice of the switch.*" Chiussi does not have these features of the invention.

In column 8, lines 48-61, Chiussi discusses the delivery of a cell arriving at a input port for delivery to multiple output ports as part of a multicast connection. Chiussi also discusses information such as tables created for the multicast connection. In column 8, lines 52-54, Chiussi states: "The delivery of the multicast cells occurs through a virtual connection (VC) established between input port 102 and the requested output ports." The specific use of port 102 is exemplary, but the illustration does provide that different cells of a multicast connection come into the switch through the same input port. Thus, the input ports do not disclose or suggest a first portion of a first message in a first slice and a second portion of the first message in a second slice. Also, since Chiussi discusses using the same translation table of a multicast request to define the path of a cell through the switch, further stages of the switch do not disclose or suggest a first portion of a first message in a first slice and a second portion of the first message in a second slice.

Also, Chiussi does not discuss identifying, for example, a chronological or spatial relation of the data packets. Thus, Chiussi does not disclose or suggest identifying a first portion of a first message and identifying a second portion of the first message. Claim 1 and its dependent claims are allowable for at least this reason.

Furthermore, claim 1 also recites, "*the first portion of the first message including a first routing portion specifying a network resource*." At column 9, lines 56-60, Chiussi discusses sending the cell to the switch fabric, which then sends the cell onto the output port. This output port is not a network resource as it is internal to the switch. Although Chiussi does use the term "network," it uses the term to describe a "switching network." So, the term "switching network" of Chiussi refers to a switch. There is no mention of resources external to the switching network. Thus, Chiussi does disclose or suggest a first routing portion specifying a network resource.

Accordingly, claim 1 and its dependent claims are allowable.

Claim 3 depends from claim 1 and should be allowable for at least similar reasons as claim 1. Claim 3 recites additional features that further distinguish over the cited references. For example, claim 3, recites, among other elements, "*dividing each message to create the first and second portions; sending the first portions to the first slice; and sending the second portions to the second slice.*" In contrast, Chiussi replicates cells, not dividing cells.

In column 8, lines 52-64, Chiussi discusses sending a single cell to many output ports. Chiussi does not divide a cell, but replicates the cell in order to send to many outputs. Thus, Chiussi does not teach or suggest dividing each message to create the first and second portion.

Accordingly, claim 3 and its dependent claims are allowable for at least these additional reasons.

Claims 7-10

Claim 7 recites similar features as recited for claim 1, and claim 7 and its dependent claims should be allowable for at least similar reasons as claim 1.

Claims 11-16

Claim 11 recites similar features as recited for claim 1, and claim 11 and its dependent claims should be allowable for at least similar reasons as claim 1.

Claim 13 recites similar features as recited for claim 3, and claim 13 and its dependent claims should be allowable for at least similar reasons as claim 3.

Claims 17-20

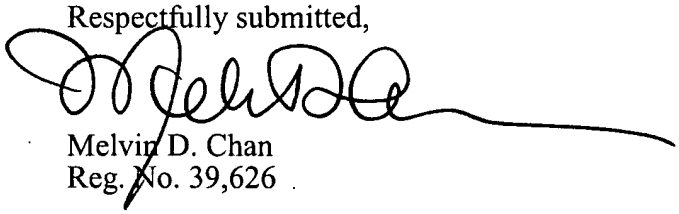
Claim 17 recites similar features as recited for claim 1, and claim 17 and its dependent claims should be allowable for at least similar reasons as claim 1.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, applicants believe all claims now pending in this application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal notice of allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 650-326-2400, extension 5213.

Respectfully submitted,



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